Remarks

Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1, 43-48, 50, 51, 56, and 64-

66.

The Rejection of Claims 52-55 and 58-63 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 1

Claims 52-55 and 58-63 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 1 as neither described

nor enabled. Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing out an inadvertent clerical error in the

claims which resulted in this rejection. Independent claims 52 and 53 have been amended to

recite "assessing expression of the gene encoding DAP-kinase in lung cells of the human,

whereby a lower degree of expression of the gene" which is supported throughout the

specification.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 52-

55 and 58-63.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Date: May 11, 2006

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